

December 1997
Project Manager: Chuck Mason

Mill Creek, Salem, Oregon Fact Sheet

AUTHORITY: Construction General, Continuing Authorities Program, Section 205
SPONSOR: City of Salem
STUDY PHASE: Feasibility Phase

LOCATION: The project is located within the city limits of Salem, which is 45 miles south of Portland, Oregon.

PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES: Mill Creek and Shelton Ditch meander through Salem from the south and eventually flow into the Willamette River at the northwest end of the city. Numerous residences, along with commercial and governmental development have been constructed along the water. During the February 1996 flood, many structures were inundated by water overflowing the banks of Mill Creek and Shelton Ditch. In addition, high water levels in streets also isolated whole neighborhoods and business districts. It is estimated that damages associated with this event easily exceeded \$10 million. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is nearing final approval of a revised Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The updated FIRM, along with the computerized hydraulic model, will allow identification and evaluation of high priority damage areas within the floodplain.

ALTERNATIVE PLANS: A preliminary assessment was completed in September 1997, which indicated that two small levees along Mill Creek could reduce significant damages from overbank flooding. Other actions, that could provide additional flood damage reduction include: bridge raising, streambank clearing, hydraulic streamlining, and upstream retention. These additional measures will be studied during the feasibility phase and presented in the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

STATUS: The feasibility phase was initiated in July 1997.

SCHEDULE:

Initiate Feasibility Study	July 1997
Complete Preliminary Assessment	September 1997
Complete Project Study Plan	April 1998
Initiate DPR	May 1998

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT(S): The study is within Oregon's 5th Congressional District, represented by Darlene Hooley.